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News Release

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2 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine

A 27-year-old Phoenix, Ariz. man was sentenced yesterday in federal court to 63 months in prison in connection with a conspiracy to distribute the highly addictive and dangerous drug, methamphetamine.

United States District Court Judge John Tunheim sentenced Jose Rodriguez Gomez May 28 in Minneapolis on one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Gomez was indicted in December 2006, and pleaded guilty on Feb. 20, 2007.

A second defendant in the case, Michael Allen Shofner, 38, Coon Rapids, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and five years of supervised release on April 28 by Judge Tunheim on one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Shofner was also indicted in December 2006, and pleaded guilty on Aug. 28, 2007.

According to their respective plea agreements, Gomez unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally conspired with Shofner and others from February 2006 to October 2006 to distribute 50 or more grams of methamphetamine.

Specifically, on Sept. 2, 2006, Gomez knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute approximately 656 grams of methamphetamine. Gomez was transporting it from Arizona to Minnesota, where he intended to distribute the drug.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, Gomez was stopped on a traffic stop at 3:16 a.m. on Sept. 2, 2006, by a Minnesota State Trooper along Interstate 35 near Faribault. Gomez presented an invalid driver's license to the officer, and was arrested for driving without a license. During a search of the vehicle, a K-9 officer alerted several times for the presence of narcotics.

Police eventually recovered approximately 1 pound of methamphetamine from the car's dashboard.

Shofner admitted that on Oct. 26, 2006, he sold approximately 2 ounces of methamphetamine. During an executed search warrant of his Coon Rapids residence, police recovered approximately 70.4 grams of methamphetamine from inside a computer in the basement. Shofner also admitted that he possessed the drug with intent to distribute it.

“The convictions of the defendants in this case have eliminated a transportation and distribution cell targeting Minnesota,” said Dan Moren, assistant special agent in charge with the DEA’s Minneapolis District Office. “The collaboration of federal, state, and local agencies has yet again proven to be an invaluable and necessary tool to bring those who would attempt to harm our society to justice.”

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA and the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force, with assistance from the Minnesota State Patrol. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa D. Kirkpatrick.